

How Do I love Thee? Let Me Count the Frequencies! February 14

At the last Symposium on Cryptologic History in 2017, attendees celebrated the 100th wedding anniversary of William and Elizebeth Friedman who were married on May 21, 1917. As part of the celebration attendees enjoyed the special anniversary cake shown in the image.

William and Elizebeth met while working at Riverbank Laboratories, a private think tank, in the 1910s, where they researched possible ciphers in Elizabethan literature. They fell in love with each other and the field of cryptology almost simultaneously and would dedicate their lives to it while serving in various capacities for the U.S. government. Their cryptologic careers culminated with the publication of a book in their retirement, *Shakespearean Ciphers Examined*. The book debunked the myth once and for all that 16th century statesmen Francis Bacon had inserted a Baconian cipher into the works of Shakespeare revealing himself as the true author — and it took them back to the days when their romance began.



508 Caption: Image of a 100th anniversary cake with a wedding photo of William and Elizebeth Friedman and the words, "Happy 100th Anniversary Bill & Elizebeth."